

Serial No. 10/784,054
60130-2012;02MRA0356**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Applicant has cancelled claims 11-12 and has added new Claims 22-28. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-10 and 22-28 are therefore pending upon entry of this amendment.

§ 102 rejection

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,296,181 to Neuhaus et al. ("Neuhaus"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office Action asserted that col. 5, lines 34-51 of Neuhaus describes the claimed body panel manufacturing method. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Neuhaus describes lining a mold with a covering layer (e.g., a synthetic resin or metal film), coating the covering layer with a bonding primer, then filling the mold with a foamed layer. In other words, Neuhaus teaches applying a foamed layer directly onto an exterior covering, not on a hardened plastic film applied onto a reverse side of an exterior covering.

Neuhaus does not even mention a plastic film of any kind on the reverse side of the exterior covering and therefore fails to disclose the steps of applying the plastic film and hardening the plastic film as recited in claim 1. The bonding primer described in Neuhaus cannot be considered the claimed plastic film because the bonding primer is simply a layer of an adhesive bonding agent, not a separate plastic film that is hardened before the foamed layer is applied.

Because Neuhaus fails to even recognize the use of a plastic film between the exterior layer and the foamed layer, Neuhaus fails to anticipate claims 1-3. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-10 contain allowable subject matter. Applicant has added new claims 22-28 by rewriting claims 4 and 8 in independent form. Entry and allowance of new claims 22-28 are respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized

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to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, (703) 872-9306, on December 6, 2004.


Beth A Beard